

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23830

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: A CRACK IN THE UNION OF THE LEFT

1. ROBERT FABRE, PRESIDENT OF THE LEFT RADICALS (MRG)
AND DEPUTY FROM THE AVEYRON, CITING THE "GRAVITY OF
THE SITUATION INTO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES HAVE
CONDUCTED OUR COUNTRY," HAS JUST WRITTEN A LETTER TO
PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING ASKING FOR AN APPOINTMENT.

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STATING IN THE LETTER THAT WHILE THE OPPOSITION IS AWARE OF

OFFICIAL PROPAGANDISTS' TENDENCIES TO USE CONTACTS BETWEEN GOF/ OPPOSITION CONTACTS AS PROOF OF OPPOSITION ENDORSEMENT OF GOF PROGRAMS, FABRE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE ASKED FOR THE MEETING IN ORDER TO BEGIN "THE PROCESS OF RETURNING TO NORMAL RELATIONS WITHOUT IN ANY WAY RENOUNCING OUR OWN POLITICAL OBJECTIVES."

2. IN HIS LETTER FABRE EXPLAINED THAT THE LACK OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN GOF AND OPPOSITION AS WELL AS THE RESULTING FUSS OVER OPPOSITION REFUSAL OF EARLIER GISCARD INVITATIONS TO DIALOGUE HAD ALLOWED OFFICIAL PROPAGANDISTS TO THUS ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE OPPOSITION BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRISIS. CATEGORICALLY REJECTING SUCH INTERPRETATIONS OF THE UNION OF THE LEFT'S EARLIER REFUSALS, FABRE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE FELT THE "BLOCKAGE" OF DIALOGUE WAS NOT DESIRABLE AND ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO EXPLAIN THE LEFT'S DEMANDS.

3. INITIAL REACTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE MAJORITY CONFIRMED FABRE'S CHARGE THAT OFFICIAL PROPAGANDISTS WOULD IN FACT SEIZE UPON SUCH A REQUEST. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANDRE ROSSI, A MEMBER OF THE RADICAL PARTY, PRAISED FABRE FOR WHAT HE CALLED AN "UNREMARKABLE" DECLARATION. NOTING THAT DISCUSSION DOES NOT NECESSARILY IMPLY ACCEPTANCE, ROSSI SAID THAT IT IS ONLY LOGICAL FOR RADICALS OF ALL PERSUASIONS TO ENGAGE IN THE PROCESS OF RELAXING POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS IN FRANCE. REACTION FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNION OF THE LEFT IS SLOW IN COMING. THE SOCIALISTS HAVE ALREADY STATED -- IN A SPEECH BY FIRST SECRETARY FRANCOIS MITTERRAND SEPTEMBER 10 TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY -- THAT "WE HAVE NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO THIS RETURN TO A PRACTICE INTERRUPTED IN 1958 AND WE WILL ACCEPT SUCH INVITATIONS WHEN WE THINK IT OPPORTUNE." THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF), WHICH HAS BEEN THE MOST FIRM OF THE UNION OF THE LEFT MEMBERS IN REFUSING GISCARD'S OFFERS OF DIALOGUE, CALLED FABRE'S LETTER "A FALSE STEP WHICH CAN ONLY SOW CONFUSION IN THE UNION OF THE LEFT."

4. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TACTICAL BREAK IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNION OF THE LEFT SINCE ITS FORMATION. WHILE THE MEMBERS OF THE UNION HAVE FREQUENTLY SQUABBLED IN PUBLIC, THEY HAVE BEEN STEADFASTLY OPPOSED TO ANY POSITIVE RESPONSE TO GISCARD'S INITIATIVES FOR A "DECRISPATION". FABRE'S LETTER, COMING ON THE HEELS OF THE CONTINUING PS/PCF QUARREL OVER PORTUGAL, DOES NOT REPRESENT THE END OF THE UNITED LEFT. IT DOES PUT A PUBLIC STRAIN ON THE CREDIBILITY OF THE UNION AND FORCES

ITS MEMBER PARTIES INTO A CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER TO
CONTINUE THE UNION BY ACCEPTING FABRE'S RIGHT TO COMMIT
HIS MRG TO DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OR WHETHER TO
CAST THE MRG'S FOURTEEN DEPUTIES OUT OF THE FOLD. FOR
THE TIME BEING, WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE UNION WILL CON-
TINUE.
RUSH

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